

04/03/75
**NOW WYCOMBE
ARE WITHIN
3 POINTS OF
THE LEADERS**

AFTER a shaky start, Wycombe Wanderers completed their seventh successive Rothmans Isthmian League victory on Tuesday night. The latest victims were Woking, who went down 3-0, thereby giving the Blues their fourth £40 bonus from the sponsors this season.

For the record book, this match extended Wanderers' unbeaten home league record to an incredible 45 games. Ironically, Woking were the last team to win at Loakes Park, way back in 1972. But after the first 20 minutes or so on Tuesday, they never looked likely to emulate that feat. Even the heroics of that fine goalkeeper Dave Collyer couldn't halt Wycombe, who are now approaching their best form.

And while Wanderers are improving steadily, their two main rivals Dagenham and Enfield appear to be slipping. Enfield dropped four points from two recent matches while Dagenham lost their fourth game of the season when they fell 1-0 at Hitchin on Tuesday. The Blues are now just three points behind the leaders, who have a game in hand.

It was not all roses for Wycombe against Woking, however. Early on, they struggled to combine well in difficult conditions and it was only after the second goal that they really began to turn on the style. When they did move in to top gear, however, there was no stopping them. Man for man, they were just too skilful for Woking, who thus completed a 7-0 aggregate defeat in their two matches against the Blues, having lost the home match last month 4-0.

Wycombe made two changes from Saturday's side, Terry Reardon replacing Dave Alexander in midfield and Dylan Evans taking over from the injured Keith Searle. Reardon was an instant success. He revels in these conditions and got through more work than any other player on the pitch. And once Wanderers were three up, he produced his full repertoire of skills.

At first, the conditions dictated events. A heavy downpour before the kick off saturated the pitch making the game a completely different kettle of fish to Saturday when everything looked perfect. Steve Perrin and Evans both sent the ball over the bar in the first 10 minutes and with Wycombe gradually building up an impressive tally of corners, they seized the initiative. Collyer saved from Mick Holifield and then Keith Mead blazed over from six yards.

By STUART EARP Wycombe Wanderers 3, Woking 0

Woking, in contrast to the home side, pinned their faith in chasing long balls down the middle which often skidded through to goalkeeper John Maskell. Steve Cosham, a recent signing, looked dangerous on occasions but Wanderers' policy of building attacks on passes looked far more likely to succeed.

REGULAR CHANCES

Chances were created fairly regularly but with half an hour gone it looked as though it was going to be one of those games when Wycombe did everything but score, especially when Paul Birdseye drove high over the bar and Evans headed wide. Then Howard Kennedy popped up for his 18th goal of the season in the 38th minute.

Birdseye took a long throw on the right and found Evans, who back-headed to Perrin. He was

challenged and the ball came out to Kennedy inside the box. Striking the ball first time, Howard mistimed his shot but placed it so well it gave Collyer no chance of intercepting. Once again Kennedy had come up with the breakthrough — an important goal that laid the foundations for the 3-0 scoreline.

A trio of Wycombe corners ended the half and a minor switch at half time soon brought better results. Wycombe had been missing the aerial skills of Searle and by moving Perrin inside instead of Evans, they looked far more dangerous. Only 10 minutes of the new half had elapsed when the Blues went further ahead and put an end to any hopes of a Woking revival.

A handball offence gave the home side a free kick 10 yards inside the Woking half. Mead drilled the ball deep into the penalty area where Perrin flung

himself into the air. Somehow, Steve pulled off an amazing overhead kick which landed straight at the feet of skipper Alan Phillips. He joyously seized onto the chance of slotting home his third goal of the season, side-footing the ball under Collyer's body. It was a deserved reward for Alan, who had enjoyed a fine game.

In between the second and third goal home 'keeper John Maskell covered himself with mud by saving Cosham's header only to hear the referee's whistle for an offence — John was not amused! Woking then won their first corner but almost immediately afterwards, found themselves trailing 3-0

The move was started by Gary Hand. He sent a typically accurate 30 yard ball down the flank to Evans who ran to the bye-line before crossing to Tony Horseman at the near post.

"Bodger" controlled well before laying the ball off to Holifield who powered in a drive. Collyer got both hands to the shot but its force took it into the net.

That was the signal for some concerted Wycombe pressure. Woking, by now demoralised despite the promptings of John Grondona and Co., rarely won the ball and when they were in possession, gave it away far too readily.

Collyer saved them from a far heavier defeat by coming out to save at Perrin's feet and then brilliantly tipping over another overhead kick from the same player.

Then, with 77 minutes gone, it seemed Wycombe had scored a fourth goal — the best of the night. The man who did the spadework was Reardon. He won three successive 60-40 challenges stretching across the

pitch before finding Horseman. His cross went to Kennedy who toe-poked a perfectly placed shot into the far corner only to see referee Ward disallow the effort for offside.

In the final 15 minutes Wanderers maintained a steady tempo of attacks on the Woking net with Horseman to the fore in most of them. Goalkeeper Collyer tipped a fierce Kennedy special over the bar and was then injured after colliding with one of his own defenders. He continued after treatment and Woking had this player to thank for saving them from an even heavier defeat.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Birdseye, K. Mead, A. Phillips, G. Hand; H. Kennedy, T. Reardon, M. Holifield; A. Horseman, D. Evans, S. Perrin. Sub D. Alexander (not used).

WOKING: D. Collyer; M. Bell, R. Poole, M. Whatford, M. Rosser; G. Cooper, D. Forbes, D. Cheeseman; S. Cosham, J. Grondona, R. Steer. Sub A. Lewer (not used).

Referee: A. Ward (London).
Half time: 1-0. **Goalscorers,** Wycombe — Kennedy (38), Phillips (55), Holifield (60).

Official paying attendance: 890.
Approximate total attendance: 1,100.